

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 2-5 and 9.

Please amend the claims as follows:

A32 1. (Amended) A method for monitoring and managing a project, comprising

the steps of:

breaking a current project into a plurality of tasks, wherein the performance of each task is tracked on the basis of at least one task related event;

setting a tasking horizon based on a predetermined time interval;

associating at least two verbs with said at least one task related event for each of said plurality of tasks;

receiving a respective predicted date for at least one task related event;

receiving a corresponding actual date for each task related event for which a predicted date was received;

for each actual date received, receiving a verb associated with the respective task related event, said received verb being one of said at least two verbs; and

tracking the performance of said project in real time based at least in part on the predicted dates, actual dates and verbs received for each of said task related events.

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6. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

computing a risk factor for at least one of said plurality of tasks based on data of at least one of said computed churn and said received verb, said data corresponding respectively to said at least one of said plurality of tasks.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said plurality of tasks of said current project to a plurality of tasks of at least one past project;

extracting previously performed task completion data for said plurality of tasks for said at least one past project; and

computing an expected task completion time for at least one of said plurality of tasks of said current project based at least in part on said previously performed task completion data.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

comparing said plurality of tasks of said current project to a plurality of tasks of at least one past project;

extracting at least one risk factor associated with said plurality of tasks of said at least one past project;

and computing a risk factor for at least one of said plurality of tasks for said current project based at least in part on said extracted at least one risk factor.

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10. (Amended) An apparatus for monitoring and managing a project, comprising:

a management module for breaking a project into a plurality of tasks, for setting a tasking horizon and for assigning at least two verbs for at least one of said plurality of tasks;

at least one task assignment station for receiving information of said at least one task, for entering a respective predicted date for each of at least one task related event relevant to the performance of said at least one task, for entering a respective actual date for each of said at least one task related event, each actual date corresponding to a respective predicted date for one task related event, and also for entering a selected one of said at least two verbs for each actual date entered;

wherein said management module and said task assignment station are operationally connected and wherein said management module receives predicted dates and actual dates entered at said task assignment station; and

a human resources module for providing real time performance information for said plurality of tasks.

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of: computing churn for each task related event for which a predicted date and an actual date was received, based on differences between corresponding ones of said received predicted and actual dates relative to said tasking horizon.

12. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the performance of said project is tracked in relation to a work unit, said work unit comprising an individual, a team, a group, a branch, a division, or an entire company.

13. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein said tracking in real time includes analyzing the performance of the work unit in relation to at least one criteria selected from the group consisting of job description, goals, bonuses, rank, churn, and cost.

14. (New) The method according to claim 1, further comprising calculating salary and bonus payments based on performance data obtained by the tracking operation.

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15. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising automatically incorporating bonuses into paychecks on the basis of the calculating operation.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the bonuses are automatically incorporated into said paychecks on a periodic basis.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the bonuses are automatically incorporated into said paychecks on one of a task completion basis or a phase completion basis.

18. (New) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said management module further receives corresponding pairs of predicted dates and actual dates, computes respective churn data for each of said at least one task related event based on a difference between the respective predicted date and the corresponding actual date, relative to said tasking horizon, and computes a risk factor for at least one of said plurality of tasks based on data of at least one of the computed churn and the selected verb.

19. (New) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said human resources module includes a user interface and a real time monitoring unit, wherein said user interface provides information obtained by said management module and said at least one task assignment station directly to said real time monitoring unit.

20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said human resource module further includes a planning unit containing information including job descriptions, goals, bonuses and rank information.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said human resource module further includes a bonus planning and payroll system for determining at least one of worker compensation and bonus amounts to be awarded to workers on the basis of performance.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bonus planning and payroll system automatically incorporates bonuses into said workers' paychecks on a periodic basis.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the bonus planning unit and payroll unit automatically incorporates bonuses into said workers' paychecks on a task completion basis or a phase completion basis.

24. (New) A human resource module for monitoring the performance of at least one work unit comprising:

a planning unit containing information including job descriptions, goals, bonuses and rank information;

a user interface for obtaining information relating to a plurality of tasks of a project and updated status information entered by said at least one work unit during the performance of the project tasks; and

a real time monitoring unit for receiving the information obtained by the user interface, and for analyzing in real time the progress achieved by said at least one work unit in relation to said information contained in said planning unit.

25. (New) The human resources module according to claim 24, further comprising a bonus planning and payroll system for determining at least one of worker compensation and bonus amounts to be awarded to workers on the basis of performance.

26. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the bonus planning and payroll system automatically incorporates bonuses into said workers' paychecks on a periodic basis.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the bonus planning unit and payroll unit automatically incorporates bonuses into said workers' paychecks on a task completion basis or a phase completion basis.